From:	Jameson Quinn
To:	City Council
Subject:	Support "Mass Against HP"
Date:	Sunday, April 22, 2018 9:01:16 PM

As a Cambridge resident, I recently received a letter from Jeremy Burton, executive director of the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Boston, urging me to contact you to oppose "Mass Against HP". This is the first I had heard of this issue. And I view the arguments that Burton used in the letter as so wrong as to convince me to do the opposite: urge you to support the movement.

The state of Israel is, to my knowledge, unique in the modern world in that it is a democratic country which, as a matter of policy that will theoretically last in perpetuity, systematically disenfranchises a substantial proportion of adults subject to its laws and/or born within the borders of its current jurisdiction. The fact that it is a democracy makes the mechanism of targeted, conditional boycotts, divestment, or sanctions (BDS) more, not less, powerful and appropriate; and disenfranchisement is unlike other human rights violations in that its very nature robs the population to whom it applies of the ability to fight to change it. Furthermore, the argument that other countries are also imperfect is not a good reason to avoid taking action against this case.

I understand that antisemitism is still a very real problem today, and that antisemites are attracted to the BDS movement. But that does not mean that the BDS movement is in itself antisemitic. I believe strongly in the goal of a democratic Israel which effectively protects all its people from their many enemies in nearby countries. And I believe that BDS is working towards that goal more faithfully than Likud is. I reject the fearmongering arguments of Mr. Burton, and will support you if you do too.

Sincerely,
Jameson Quinn